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The Honorable William M. Thomas
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

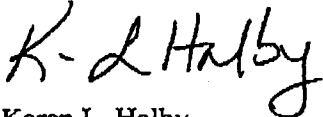
Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for meeting with us to discuss the changes that you are proposing to the "earnings stripping" proposal that will be included in your international tax legislation to be introduced shortly. We appreciate the effort that you and your staff have put into being responsive to our concerns on this important matter.

We fully support these changes because they eliminate the worldwide debt to asset ratio limitation and preserve the 50% adjusted taxable income limitation for guaranteed debt. These changes are important to us because they allow companies like us to continue to fund their investment in the U.S. with legitimate and cost effective financing.

Furthermore, as a US subsidiary that also owns many foreign subsidiaries, we support the other aspects of your international tax legislation and believe those changes will both simplify and improve many of the complex international tax rules we must contend with today. We welcome the opportunity to review other aspects of the bill and to work with you and your staff as the legislative process moves forward.

Very truly yours,



Karen L. Halby

cc: The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House of Representatives
The United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515